

CHAPTER VI: WORSHIP AND SERVICES

1. Preaching

1. **Sunday preaching.** Preaching shall be conducted on the Lord's Day in every congregation according to established practice. At the morning service, lessons shall be read from both the Old Testament and the New Testament.
2. The Hymn Book, the two authorised editions of the Bible, the New Translation of the Gospels, and any later translation approved by Conference may be used.
3. If a hymn not contained in the Hymn Book is to be used, the Minister shall determine whether it is suitable. If it is unsuitable, its use shall be prohibited.
4. The Minister shall prevent the use of churches under his or her care for purposes inconsistent with the practice and character of the Church.
5. The congregation shall be encouraged to kneel facing the front during prayer.
6. A Sunday evening preaching service and weekday preaching services shall also be held. Each Minister shall determine a suitable time for weekday preaching in each congregation.
7. The Superintendent Minister shall arrange the preaching appointments and may appoint another person to act on his or her behalf. This shall be done after the Wednesday morning service.

2. The Two Sacraments

1. The two Sacraments are *Baptism* and *the Lord's Supper*. They are ordinances of God to be faithfully observed by Christians and are signs of the covenant between Christ and His people.

(a) The Lord's Supper

1. The Lord's Supper is instituted by the command of the Lord: "Do this in remembrance of me." Through it we confess our faith in His saving death upon the Cross and in our redemption. The Bread and Wine are means by which we remember His suffering and death; and when this Holy Sacrament is received in faith and peace, we experience the work of the Spirit and fellowship with the Lord and with the whole communion of believers.
2. Ordained Ministers shall administer the Sacrament, but the President may authorise a Probationary Minister to assist or administer it.
3. It shall be celebrated not less than twice each year, including the first Sunday of the New Year and Easter Sunday.
4. The Minister shall impress upon the congregation the solemn importance of the Sacrament and shall prevent anyone from approaching it carelessly or irreverently.
5. Participation in the Sacrament shall ordinarily be limited to Catechumens and those under Church instruction, and no person under fifteen years of age shall participate.

6. A service of preparation shall be held for those intending to receive the Sacrament. The Sacrament may also be taken to persons who are sick.
7. The Steward shall carefully arrange sufficient space at the communion rail for kneeling, and the congregation shall approach in an orderly and reverent manner. All communicants shall come to the communion rail.
8. During each Conference year, the President may authorise the following persons to administer the Lord's Supper:
 - (a) a Probationary Minister in charge of, or assisting in, a Circuit; (e) a Trainee Minister serving or assisting in a school; (f) a Conference Steward serving a town or locality that is difficult for the Circuit Minister to visit.

(e) Regulations Concerning Baptism

1. Parents wishing to have a boy or girl baptised shall notify the Minister several days before the Sunday on which the Baptism is to take place. The Minister shall meet with them and receive their promise to teach and nurture the child in the Christian faith. If the Minister is not satisfied with the parents or with the sincerity of their undertaking, the child shall be presented by a relative who will genuinely promise to provide Christian nurture.
2. Children born outside marriage shall be baptised in the church in the presence of the congregation. Where several children are presented, the parents and children shall stand in one line. Children born within marriage shall be baptised first, followed by children born outside marriage. Under the provision printed in this edition, the father of a child born outside marriage is not to present the child; the mother may do so if she sincerely undertakes to nurture the child in the Christian faith. If the Minister is not satisfied with the mother's undertaking, a relative shall present the child and sincerely promise to instruct the child in the doctrines and conduct of the Christian faith. The shared covenantal responsibility of the Church and of those presenting children for Baptism shall be strongly emphasised in relation to their Christian nurture.
3. A miscarried child or a person who has already died shall not be baptised. The people shall be taught that Baptism is fundamentally concerned with bringing up children for the Lord so that they belong to His Church and grow in genuine Christian life. If it has not been possible for a child to be baptised, it is entirely mistaken to suppose that God will not receive such a child.
4. Baptism is the Sacrament signifying admission into the Church of Christ. From ancient times it has been administered not only to adult believers but also to children, for Scripture declares that "One died for all". The benefits of the sacrifice made for the whole world therefore extend to them; and, in the gracious will of the Lord, they may be incorporated by Baptism into the Church of Christ.
5. An Ordained Minister shall normally administer Baptism, but in an emergency may authorise a Steward or Fully Accredited Lay Preacher to do so. Baptism should ordinarily take place in the church and in the presence of the parents. The Minister shall emphasise that, in bringing their children for Baptism, the

parents dedicate them to God and promise to instruct them in the Christian faith.

6. Whenever a Baptism is conducted, the Minister shall report it to the Superintendent Minister, who shall record it in the official Baptism Register.

3. Marriage

1. Marriage may be solemnised by an Ordained Minister, a Retired Ordained Minister, or a Probationary Minister authorised by the President.
2. The Minister shall conduct the marriage according to the prescribed form of the Church.
3. No marriage shall be solemnised without the required authorisation of the Government.
4. After the marriage, the marriage documentation shall be lodged with the Government and with the President within three weeks.
5. The prescribed marriage fee is eighty shillings (80s), which shall be received by the Minister conducting the marriage.

4. Funerals

1. Funeral services shall be conducted according to the Church's authorised Book of Services.
2. The Minister, or a person authorised by the Minister, shall conduct the service.
3. The funeral bell shall be rung and the complete published funeral service shall be used for all persons, whether baptised or not and regardless of the circumstances of death. The Minister may, however, omit the funeral sermon or tribute where the Minister considers the circumstances of the death inappropriate for such a sermon. In the case of a miscarried child, arrangements for a funeral service shall be at the discretion of the Minister and the family.
4. A funeral sermon may be preached in our churches.

5. Prayer and Devotional Meetings

1. Prayer meetings shall be held on Monday evening, Friday morning and early on the Lord's Day, and at any other time which the President, Regional Chairpersons or Regional Superintendents consider suitable. Each Minister shall determine the most convenient time for weekday prayer meetings in the congregations under his or her care.
2. The Superintendent Minister shall conduct these meetings or appoint another Minister, Steward or Lay Preacher to do so.
3. Amusements, buses and public entertainment activities are to cease during times of worship.
4. Tongan dress may be worn at Church meetings.

6. Fasts

1. A day of fasting shall be observed once in each quarter, on the last Friday of March, June, September and December, and at any other time the President, Regional Chairpersons or Regional Superintendents consider suitable for a fast and prayer service.

7. Watchnight Service

1. A Watchnight Service shall be held on the last night of every year, beginning at 10.00 p.m. and continuing until midnight.

8. *Pōlotu* Devotional Meetings

1. The Superintendent Minister of each Circuit shall determine the time and form of a *Pōlotu* devotional meeting. It may be held on the evening of the first Sunday of the new month or at another suitable time.
2. The Minister may direct that the *Pōlotu* be conducted by a Steward or by one of the senior Lay Preachers.
3. The Minister shall take particular care that every *Pōlotu* is conducted in a manner appropriate to Christian worship.